

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07961 111234Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 A-01 ISO-00 PER-01 AID-05 NEA-10 MMO-01
IGA-02 /036 W
-----120408Z 013122 /13
R 111132Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4936

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FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY MOOSE, DIRECTOR GENERAL LAISE
AND GOVERNOR GILLIGAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID
SUBJECT: RESIDENT AUDITOR PERSONNEL

1. IN ORDER TO BE SURE THAT THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING
OF MY POSITION, I WANT TO RECORD THE SUBSTANCE OF MY TALK
WITH AUDITOR GENERAL HARRY CROMER YESTERDAY ON RESIDENT
AG PERSONNEL.

2. AS HE HAS IN PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE, MR. CROMER
TOLD ME OF HIS DESIRE TO ASSIGN TWO AND PREFERABLY THREE
AUDITORS TO CAIRO. I EMPHASIZED TO MR. CROMER THAT
I FULLY SHARE HIS VIEW ON THE NEED FOR SOME RESIDENT
AUDITOR PERSONNEL IN VIEW OF THE SIZE OF OUR AID PROGRAM.
HOWEVER, IN THE CONTEXT OF MY LONG-ESTABLISHED POLICY OF
TRYING TO KEEP MISSION NUMBERS AS LIMITED AS POSSIBLE,
I PROPOSED AS AN ALTERNATIVE THAT ONLY ONE RESIDENT
AUDITOR BE ASSIGNED, WHO COULD BE AUGMENTED AS NEEDED
BY TDY AUDITOR PERSONNEL. (I UNDERSTAND SYRIA,
PAKISTAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE AUDITED BY TDY
AUDITORS.) SHOULD EXPERIENCE SHOW THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE
IS INADEQUATE, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO LOOK AT IT AGAIN.
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I COULD NOT, HOWEVER, SIMPLY ACCEPT AN UNTESTED JUDGMENT
THAT TWO OR THREE RESIDENT AUDITORS ARE MINIMUM NEEDED.

3. MR. CROMER SAID THAT UNLESS HE COULD SEND AT LEAST
TWO AUDITORS, HE WOULD NOT WISH TO SEND ANY. I TOLD HIM
THAT IN THAT CASE I WAS SATISFIED WITH THE CONTINUATION
OF PAST ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY AUDITORS ARE SENT TO CAIRO

ON TDY BASIS TO GO OVER AID PROGRAM. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT IF HE WISHED TO RECONSIDER SENDING ONE RESIDENT AUDITOR, THIS WAS AGREEABLE TO ME.

4. I MADE IT CLEAR TO MR. CROMER THAT MY REASON FOR WANTING TO MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF RESIDENT AUDITOR PERSONNEL IS THE SERIOUS HOUSING AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT PROBLEM THAT WE CONTINUE TO FACE IN CAIRO. WITH THE OPERATIONAL STAFF OF AID INCREASING, WE ARE EXPERIENCING SEVERE DIFFICULTIES GETTING SUITABLE HOUSING FOR PERSONNEL. THIS SITUATION IS LIKELY TO GET WORSE. JAO, ORGANIZED LATE LAST YEAR, IS NOT YET STAFFED TO PROVIDE THE NEEDED SERVICE AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR THE EXISTING MISSION STAFF. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I HAVE PERSONALLY VETTED EVERY POSITION TO INSURE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL. ALL OF US WANT THE AID BOOKS PROPERLY AUDITED AND THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION ON THIS POINT. I DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS CAN BE DONE BY A SINGLE RESIDENT AUDITOR AUGMENTED WHERE NECESSARY BY TDY PERSONNEL. AT A VERY MINIMUM, I BELIEVE SUCH A SYSTEM SHOULD BE TESTED BEFORE JUDGMENTS ARE MADE ABOUT LONGER TERM NEEDS. IF SUCH A SYSTEM DOES NOT WORK, I HAVE AN OPEN MIND ABOUT REVIEWING IT. HOWEVER, I AM ALSO AGREEABLE TO CONTINUING WITH THE SYSTEM OF TDY AUDITORS, WHICH HAS WORKED IN THE PAST AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AUDITS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO07961
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770166-1057
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770572/aaaacpf.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 04cbba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2574515
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESIDENT AUDITOR PERSONNEL
TAGS: EAIID
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/04cbba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009